

October 15, 2009
Public Hearing

Public Hearing began at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Bill Muse, Mayor; Randy Ripplinger, Dennis Bertucci, Wendell Roundy, Councilmembers; Judi Davis, Clerk; Bob and Naomi Brems, Tom Jerome, Peg Smith.

Mayor Muse opened the public hearing for the CDBG program and stated that this hearing is being called to consider potential projects for which funding may be applied under the 2010 Community Development Block Grant Program. It was explained that the grant money must be spent on projects benefitting primarily low and moderate-income persons. The Five County Association of Governments in which Boulder Town is a member is expecting to receive approximately \$800,000 in this new program year.

All eligible activities that can be accomplished under this program are identified in the CDBG Application Guide, and interested persons can review it at any time. Mayor Muse read several of the eligible activities listed, including construction of public facilities and improvements, senior centers, parks, recreational facilities, solid waste disposal improvements, and street improvements. Also eligible are loan programs for private businesses which would then hire low income persons. The program can also pay for housing rehabilitation for low income homeowners or for persons owning rental housing for lower income persons.

Mayor Muse indicated that, in the past, Boulder has received one CDBG grant, and it was for the purpose of building the firehouse. Copies of the town's capital investment plan, which will be part of the regional "Consolidated Plan," were passed out. It was asked that anyone with questions, comments or suggestions during the hearing identify themselves by name before they speak, and their names will be included in the minutes and their questions and suggestions will be responded to during the hearing.

Tom Jerome suggested several needs that could be met by the improvement of the Town Hall. It is in need of repairs, especially to the plumbing and electricity. There are other uses for which facilities are needed, such as an office which could be locked, an expansion of the library, a community use room, and an array of energy improvements, all of which could be done keeping the historic character of the building.

Robert Brems stated the need for a Senior Center, for which grants are fairly easy to get. He would like the town to push to get a good and large senior center. The semi-monthly meetings of the seniors group now held at Boulder Mesa Restaurant has a good turnout—of the 52 possible participants, 80% usually attend. There are 18 others who

don't care to participate, making a total of 70 seniors in the community. Of those, 40% are new residents who have moved to town in the last five years.

Tom Jerome asked if we were to apply for a grant for a senior center, would we be required to serve regular meals out of the center? Mayor Muse responded that we will look into the regulations accompanying grants for senior centers.

Robert Brems described the activity at the senior dinners.

Mayor Muse suggested that we could do a historical renovation of the building if there aren't too many regulations involved.

Naomi Brems stated that it was her understanding that, if we have a senior center, we are eligible to have a bus. She added that we still need two benches at the corner park, to which Tom Jerome replied that Tim and Tom have the wood and will get it to Dennis.

Tom Jerome commented that we have several on-going classes in town, for which there is not a good winter space in town. It would be helpful to have a good community space area. Could that be combined with a senior center? Energy savings would save a large amount of money.

Mayor Muse asked if there were any other suggestions. There were not. The hearing was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.